Hazardous Chemical Industries in Gujarat

623. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the district-wise number of hazardous chemical industries in Gujarat as on 31st October, 1993;

(b) whether any increase has been registered in the number of such industries in this State during the last three years;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be takne by Central Government to check the growth of such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) As per the information provided by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Gujarat, there are 2.447 hazardous chemical units in the State as on 31st October 1993. The District-wise break up is as given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of Hazardous Chemical Units As on 31-10-1993
1	Ahmedabad	680
2	Amreli	1
3	Banaskantha	1
4	Baroda	298
5	Bharuch	305
6	Valsad	402
7	Bhavnagar	88
8	Dang	--
9	Gandhinagar	2
10	Jamnagar	30
11	Junagadh	22
12	Kheda	116
13	Kachch	23
14	Mehsana	125
15	Panchmahals	91
16	Rajkot	49
17	Sabarkantha	11
18	Surat	182
19	Surendranagar	21
	TOTAL :	2447

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There has been an increase in the number of such industries during the last three years and this could be attributed to among other reasons, increased industrialisation in the State.

(d) Setting up of such industries are regulated under various provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act and other laws in force.

Installation of Anti-pollution equipments by Companies

624. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any uniform code at National and State level for installation of anti-pollution equipments by the existing and newly coming up industries;

(b) whether there is any time bound programme for installation of such devices and or to shift or close down such industries; and

(c) if so how Government ensure deviation or arbitrary functioning of State Pollution Control Boards in ordering closure of industries or shifting the industries without considering the impact on the closure of industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 are the uniform codes at National and State levels which provide norms to the industries to meet the prescribed standards.

State Pollution Control Boards issue consent to operate industries after ensuring that they have provided adequate pollution control equipments to comply with the prescribed standards. The Central Government have issued a notification according to which the industries set up on or before May 16, 1981 are required to comply with the pollution control standards by December 31, 1993. The industries set up after May 16, 1981 were required to comply with the standards by December 31, 1992. The State Pollution Control Boards have been asked to ensure that all the industries comply with the prescribed standards within the given time frame.

(c) The Central Government is reviewing from time to time the status of compliance by the polluting units and the action taken against the defaulting units ly the State Pollution Control Boards. The Government have not received any representation regarding deviations or arbitrary functioning of State Pollution Control Boards by ordering closure of industries. However, as per the notification issued by the Government on 16th January, 1991, the Central Board or State Board, depending upon the local conditions or nature of discharge of pollutants may, by order, specify a lesser period. within which compliance of standards shall be met by an industry.

Setting up of pollution control devices

625. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Wi the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Heavy Polluting Industries such as Thermal, Iron and Steel, Fertilizer Units etc. have shown their inability to set up pollution control devices;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued directions to the concerned Ministries that stern action shall be taken against those who have not installed pollution control devices; and

(c) if so, to what extent these industries have agreed to set up such devices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The progress of compliance with the prescribed standards by the heavily polluting industries such as Thermal Power Plants, Iron and Steel, Fertilizer units etc., has been recently reviewed